

IGT INVENTION DISCLOSURE

Today's Date:----- 5/24/00 -----(m/d/y)

INVENTION INFORMATION

Title of Invention: Automation of Voucher Sorting in the Soft Count Process

Conception Date: 7/99

(m/d/y)

First Disclosure to Whom/Where: LV Gaming Show 9/99

First Disclosure Date: (m/d/y)

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RELATED WORK INFORMATION

1) Others you know currently working on a closely related project within IGT?

Name(s):

Location:

Approximate Date:

(m/y)

Issued Patent Number/Country:

Invention Disclosure Title:

Invention Disclosure Date:

(m/y)

1) Is your work based on or an improvement of work performed by others within IGT?

Name(s):

Location:

Approximate Date:

(m/y)

Issued Patent Number/Country:

Invention Disclosure Title:

Invention Disclosure Date:

(m/y)

INVENTION DISCLOSURE

TITLE: Automation of Voucher Sorting in the Soft Count Process

1. **BACKGROUND OF INVENTION:**

In the gaming industry, a process referred to as the Soft Count process is a highly secured and monitored process which insures all the currency received by each gaming machine in a casino is properly accounted for and recorded. The typical

process performed each day is as follows:

- 1) Players place currency in the gaming machines bill acceptor
- 2) Based on a defined schedule (daily, every two days, etc), the machine is dropped. This means the gaming machine is opened and the cash box removed and recorded. A new "empty" cash box is installed in the gaming machine.
- 3) Each cash box is taken to the soft count room.
- 4) The cash box is opened and the currency is removed and placed on a bill sorter such as a GLORY machine. The purpose of this machine is to sort the bills according to denomination and record the total amount.
- 5) This information is recorded per gaming machine and entered into the online slot accounting system for reconciliation.

Recently, the gaming industry has adopted the use of cash vouchers. These cash vouchers are printed out of the gaming machine when a player cashes out. The vouchers can be redeemed at a cashier cage for cash or placed into a second gaming machine and redeemed for credits on the gaming machine.

With the gaming machine accepting cash vouchers in addition to currency, there is a need to sort and account for these cash vouchers as part of the soft count process.

2. ADVANTAGES ACHIEVED BY INVENTION:

The automation of the soft count process when cash vouchers are accepted by the gaming machine is critical to insure that additional labor and time associated with sorting and accounting for these cash vouchers is minimized.

3. DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION (attach figures):

To automate the soft count process when cash vouchers are accepted by the gaming machine, a high speed bar code scanner is required to account for the cash voucher. This high speed bar code scanner reads the bar code which is printed on each cash voucher and communicates this information to the host system for reconciliation with the recorded values in the system. The process works as follows:

- 1) Players place currency and *cash vouchers* in the gaming machine's bill

acceptor

- 2) Based on a defined schedule (daily, every two days, etc), the machine is dropped. This means the gaming machine is opened and the cash box removed and recorded. A new "empty" cash box is installed in the gaming machine.
- 3) Each cash box is taken to the soft count room.
- 4) The cash box is opened and the currency *and cash vouchers are* removed and placed on a bill sorter such as a GLORY machine. The purpose of this machine is to sort the bills according to denomination and record the total amount. *name of co that provides machine*
- 5) A. *The GLORY or similar machine, sorts the bills and scans the bar codes on each cash voucher. All cash vouchers are placed in a unique bin where they are properly sorted from the cash. Each bar code scanned by the GLORY or similar machine, is communicated to the host system and reconciled with the vouchers transactions.*
B. *In the case where the GLORY or similar cash sorting machine does not read bar codes the process would work as follows:*
 1. *The bills are sorted by the GLORY and all cash vouchers are sorted into the reject bin of the GLORY.*
 2. *The contents of the reject bin are then placed in a high speed bar code scanning machine such as a unit referred to as the "Duplo". The Duplo reads each ticket, scans the bar code and communicates the bar code information to the central system for reconciliation.*C. *When a physical record is required of each cash voucher, the process would work as follows:*
 1. *The bills are sorted by the GLORY and all cash vouchers are sorted into the reject bin of the GLORY.*
 2. *The contents of the reject bin are placed in a scanning machine which scans each ticket and records a digitized image of the cash voucher. This information is sent to a system which records the data and reconciles the information with the central system.*
- 6) This information is recorded per gaming machine and entered into the online slot accounting system for reconciliation.

Inventor Signature: _____

Date:

First Witness: _____

Date:

Second Witness: _____

Date: